

4th. Mary Magdalene, out of whom seven devils were cast, was not prepared for heaven by that act, altho Jesus said to her, "Thy faith has saved thee, go in peace." Hath saved—whatever of salvation there was in the case she was then in possession of, and she was yet here in the flesh, from what then was she saved? Evidently from the grasp of the seven devils. She was told to go in peace, and we believe that she did walk in the paths of peace and righteousness and in the ordinances of the Lord's house to the end, for it is said she loved much. And again Jesus says, "If ye love me keep my commandments." We believe she was eternally saved by the Gospel.

5th. The ten lepers, Luke 17: 12. Allow me to ask in all candor, were they prepared for heaven by being cleansed from their leprosy? Surely not, for nine of them, for aught we know, were never heard of while one poor fellow returned to glorify God, and if he ever went to heaven it was by the means laid down in the Gospel, for there is no Savior but Christ and no plan but the Gospel.

6th. The woman who had an issue of blood for twelve years, Matt. 9: 20, believed she would be healed by touching the Savior's garment, and she was instantly cured. Jesus said to her, "Thy faith has made thee whole." Are we to understand from this that her faith had wholly prepared her for heaven? Not so, not so, what then? Simply that she was cured of her infirmity, the one thing she desired, the only thing she believed she should obtain, and as in all other cases if she became a Christian and was saved in heaven, it was by the means that Christ instituted in the Gospel.

7th. And lastly we believe as we always believed that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation, and we look upon this thing of going to heaven by faith alone or by any other semi-infidel plan as the severest heresy and shall oppose it whether it come from men in our own church, from men in other churches, from the world, the flesh, or the devil, we shall always be found in opposition to it. We feel safe in so doing, for if this is not right all men will go to heaven and we shall lose nothing by our fidelity to God, while all may be lost on the other side. We thought of examining the thief on the cross route to heaven, but this article is long enough and we will leave that for a special article in the future.

Congress, O., March 12, 1900.

A FRIEND IN TIMES OF SORROW

GEO. S. GRIM

It is natural to wish for friends at all times; but it is more than a natural wish to have friends in times of sorrow. When we are overtaken with sorrow and forsaken by such as are only friendly under favorable circumstances, or as far as things of this world are concerned, then there is a pang in the heart for a true friend that is willing to help us under all circumstances. Jesus invited the three disciples to the mountain top that they might

behold his glory; he invited them also into the depths of the garden of Gethsemane that they might support him in the hours of his agony. The soul of the Savior was exceedingly sorrowful even unto death. The hour which he had long been looking for had arrived, and it was very bitter, and a great agony to his soul. Grief has a two fold character. It seeks solitude as well as sympathy. Jesus removed himself a stone's throw from the three disciples, and there poured out his soul's agony to the Father, saying, "O, my Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from me; nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." Matt. 26: 39. But Jesus still wished the three disciples to be near that he might receive sympathy from them when the state of his overcharged heart would allow it. But the disciples had fallen asleep, and it appears that they were unconcerned about the great plan of redemption which the Savior was about to accomplish. And he said unto Peter, "What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak." He went away the second time and prayed to the Father, and came back to his disciples and they had again fallen asleep. He saith unto them, "Sleep on now and take your rest." It was a golden opportunity for the three disciples when they could have obtained a glimpse and inside view of the work of the Master that might have rendered him a service which would have been divinely recompensed, besides preparing themselves for the scenes which were about to ensue. But it was a lost opportunity to them. They were near Him in Gethsemane, yet they were not with him in reality as true friends in times of sorrow; tho Jesus had invited them to a degree of confidence as intimate friends beyond what they had ever enjoyed, yet they did not realize it as true friends of Jesus to be ready to help him in this time of great need and sorrow. It was a lost opportunity to the three disciples. So it is often with us when we ought to be wide awake and help in times of sorrow and distress, then are we sleeping at our post of duty, and the opportunity to help each other is lost.

Louisville, Ohio.

POWER OF GENTLENESS

C. H. WETHERBE

There is power in roughness, in loud threatening, in a roar of thunder, but there is also very effective power in human gentleness. Many a vicious heart, long hardened by sin and crime, has been deeply affected by the sweet gentleness of one who knew how to reach the inner spring of that heart. I believe that one great reason why Christ won the masterful hold which he had upon great numbers of people was because of his persuasive gentleness. He was pre-eminently a gentle man. Isaiah prophesied of Christ in these words: "He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break and the smoking flax shall he not quench."

This language signifies that Christ would be a singularly gentle person, and such he showed to the world that he was. The power of gentleness has been used by men with marked effect. Rev. Burdett Hart says: "It is told of our bold General Hooker that during the war, in the severe winter, he visited our military prison at Rock Island where three thousand rebel prisoners were confined. They were all drawn up in line for his inspection, and he scanned every man from head to heel as he passed before them. At the end of the line the General halted and half wheeled his proud horse and lifted his plumed hat with knightly grace to those rebels as tho they had been princes, and with gentle voice said: 'Young gentlemen, I am sorry, very sorry for you, and hope that soon our differences will be settled so that you all can return safely home again.' It was so unexpected and so different from what they had been accustomed to hear that it thrilled them like a current of electricity, and instantly from those 'ragged rebs' three thousand throats gave a ringing cheer for fighting Joe Hooker." This is a superb illustration of the power of gentleness. And I think that here is a good lesson for all pastors, especially those who make a practice of speaking to their people in scolding tones and in a domineering spirit. They fancy that, as a commander-in-chief of the Lord's army in their locality, they ought to speak with thunderous authority; but they are mistaken, greatly mistaken. Let them imitate the gentleness of their great Lord, who conquered hearts, even the hardest hearts by the gentleness of his compassionate spirit.

CONVERSIONS

J. L. GILLIN

It will perhaps be of interest to every reader of this paper to know just how many conversions have been reported in the EVANGELIST during the quarter from January 1, 1900 to April 1, 1900. I have kept a weekly record of those reported and deducting all reported twice, I find the total number is 515. The highest number of converts reported in one week was 79, the second week in January. The smallest number, 19, the third week in March. The church reporting the largest number of converts at one time was Johnstown, 31. A close second was Hamlin, Kan., with 30, and Aleppo, Pa., was third.

Let the good work go on. God will be glorified, the church edified and souls saved. But let us not forget that it is as important, perhaps more so, to keep men saved as to get them saved. A church that is not a revival church, that is, that is not working to save souls, can hardly claim to be like Christ. Let us all work harder for the salvation of souls.

It is not with a rush and a spring that we are to reach Christ's character and attain to perfect saintship; but step by step, foot by foot, hand over hand, we are slowly and often painfully to mount the ladder that rests on earth and rises to heaven.—Guthrie.